

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 2581

EXDIS

FOR VEST AND NIMETZ FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, MARR, PFOR, TU
SUBJ: TURKISH DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT

1. WE ARE REPORTING SEPTTEL ON THE SERIES OF CONVERSATIONS THAT SOLARZ HAD HERE IN ANKARA. ONE PROBLEM WHICH THOSE CONVERSATIONS HIGHLIGHTED BUT WHICH WILL COME AS NO SURPRISE TO YOU IS THE QUESTION OF THE REOPENING OF OUR INSTALLATIONS IN TURKEY ONCE THE EMBARGO IS LIFTED. YOU WILL RECALL THAT I POINTED OUT TO YOU THAT IF WE SCRAPPED THE DCA THE TURKS WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY CONSIDER THAT THERE IS NO BASIS UNDER WHICH THEY COULD REOPEN THOSE INSTALLATIONS (ANKARA 2214, PARA G2). ECEVIT WAS ASKED FOLLOWING HIS MEETING WITH SOLARZ ABOUT THE STATUS OF THE BASES AFTER THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO BUT BEFORE A NEW DCA. HE IS QUOTED AS SAYING, "THE OLD AGREEMENT IS NO LONGER IN EFFECT AND A NEW AGREEMENT WILL ESTABLISH THE STATUS OF THE BASES". IT IS CLEAR THEY WILL NOT AUTOMATICALLY BE PERMITTED TO RESUME OPERATION UPON LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO.

2. I HAVE RAISED WITH ELEK DAG INFORMALLY WHAT I DESCRIBED AS A POTENTIAL STUMBLING BLOCK TO CONGRESSIONAL
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AGREEMENT TO LIFTING THE EMBARGO. I HAVE TOLD HIM THAT IF THE GOT TIES REOPENING OF THE BASES TO NEGOTIATION OF A NEW DCA INCORPORATING A NEW SECURITY ASSISTANCE PACKAGE, CONGRESSIONAL REACTION MAY WELL BE TO PUT OFF CONSIDERATION OF THE EMBARGO ISSUE UNTIL A NEW DCA IS PRESENTED TO CONGRESS.

3. ELEKDAG HAS TOLD ME THAT IT WOULD BE POLITICALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR ECEVIT TO OPEN THE INSTALLATIONS WITHOUT A NEW AGREEMENT BUT HE IMPLIED THIS AGREEMENT NEED ONLY DEAL WITH BASES, NOT SECURITY ASSISTANCE. HE POINTS OUT THAT THE GOT IS PUBLICLY ON RECORD AS TYING OPENING THE INSTALLATIONS TO PASSAGE OF THE DCA (NOT THE EMBARGO. FURTHERMORE, TURKISH VIEW IS THAT THERE IS NO JURIDICAL BASIS FOR US OPERATIONS AT FACILITIES NOW IN PROVISIONAL STATUS SINCE THE 1969 DCA IS VOID AND NEW DCA WHICH WOULD PROVIDE SUCH A BASIS WILL HAVE BEEN SCRAPPED.

4. BEFORE I PRESS THE TURKS HARD TO COME UP WITH A SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM I NEED YOUR BEST JUDGMENT AS TO THE IMPORTANCE THE QUESTION OF OPENING OF THE INSTALLATIONS IS LIKELY TO ASSUME DURING CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE. ELEKDAG HAS SUGGESTED THAT I SEEK AN APPOINTMENT WITH ECEVIT. I BELIEVE THAT THE MOST THAT WE COULD GET FROM ECEVIT IS A PUBLIC STATEMENT INDICATING THAT GOT DESIRES TO SEE THE RAPID REOPENING OF THE INSTALLATIONS FOLLOWING THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO AND A COMMITMENT TO NEGOTIATE WITHOUT DELAY A NEW NBASIS FOR US OPERATIONS IN TURKEY (IMPLICITLY WITHOUT TYING THIS TO AGREEMENT ON CHANGED SECURITY ASSISTANCE LEVELS FOR THIS YEAR OR AGREEMENT ON THE LEVEL FOR FY '80, WHICH WOULD REQUIRE RATIFICATION). I AM NOW SKEPTICAL
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THAT MORE THAN THIIIS, INCLUDING THE IDEA OF A TEMPORARY REOPENING (VIA AN EXCHANGE OF NOTES) FOR A DEFINED PERIOD PENDING NEGOTIATION OF A NEW ARRANGEMENT, WOULD BE POSSIBLE.
SPIERS

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